



Tod Debolt Talks About His Roles and the GeoPlatform

BY PHILLIP JULIAN

In January, Phillip Julian, a BOGS team member, interviewed Tod Dabolt who recently assumed the role of Director of the Office of the Chief Information Officer's Information Management and Technology Division, in addition to his Geospatial Information Officer and Chief Data Officer responsibilities. Phillip and Tod discussed Tod's GIS background, his role at the Department of the Interior (DOI), the Geospatial Platform, and its potential impact on Indian Country. Tod has served 21 years in the Federal government and is currently located in Washington, D.C. This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Interview Highlights

On Tod's geospatial background, his new role at the DOI, and the best part of his job

I joined the DOI over two years ago. Back in the mid '90s, I got involved with geospatial technology when I did environmental consulting work for The Nature Conservancy in Colorado, and I've been using different geospatial products ever since to improve public health and the environment. For many years I worked for the EPA, where we worked with tribal nations supporting their clean water and drinking water. I shifted to the DOI to get closer to natural resource management opportunities within the Department and the wider diversity of uses of GIS.

In my new role, as well as in my other two positions, I look at how we use data and information to improve decision-making processes across the Department and with our constituents. I get the most enjoyment from my job when I am able to support an organization to make better decisions for the American people.

On how Tod views advancements in information technology and their impact on the DOI and Indian Country

We are fortunate to have an Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) with Esri. It's one example where we can leverage the commercial sector's product advances in order to further enable our mission. There's a lot of great work going on in the open source community that we're making available through efforts like the Geospatial Platform (GeoPlatform), which leverages the combination of both Esri technology and open source software. To me, it's about finding the right tool for the right job, and the more tools you have in your tool belt, the more possibilities there are for fine craftsmanship. (Continued on page 2.)



Image: Tod Dabolt, DOI's Director of Information Management and Technology Division. Source: U.S. Department of the Interior.

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Introducing the TAAMS Map Viewer 2.0

BY RAYMOND CREW



Image: An example tract shown in the updated TAAMS Map Viewer.

BOGS is happy to announce that version 2.0 of the Trust Asset and Accounting Management System (TAAMS) Map Viewer has been released. The Office of Trust Services (OTS), Division of Land Title and Records (DLTR), Branch of Geospatial support (BOGS) released TAAMS Map Viewer 1.0 last August. The TAAMS Map Viewer is an interactive web mapping application that authorized TAAMS users can access inside the TAAMS results page. The interactive map viewer displays a TAAMS tract spatially and also allows the user to print a map of the tract.

Version 2.0 contains many new features, including some that were scheduled to be implemented for version 2.0, as well as some others that were added based on user feedback. These new features enable a map legend, measurement tools, and the ability to change basemaps. Beyond improvements to the user interface, the updated TAAMS Map

Viewer utilizes Esri Web Application Builder framework with Javascript customization, which offers better security and cross-platform operation. The new framework also provides a modern responsive web interface for map viewing.

Tribal GIS Conference 2017 Wrap-Up

BY ERICA SELLA

Several BOGS team members attended the 2017 National Tribal GIS™ Conference held November 12-17 in Albuquerque. The conference was organized by the National Tribal Geographic Information Support Center and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute.

BOGS team members Erica Sella and Dustin Walsh led two pre-conference workshops, *Introduction to GIS* and *Cartographic Design and Mapbooks*. Both workshops were well attended and well received, with the *Cartographic Design and Mapbooks* class filling over capacity. Byron Andrew, a new BOGS staff member, provided one-on-one student assistance during the workshops. BOGS team members provided handouts with information about BOGS services, including training classes, geospatial data sources, and software available to eligible tribes at no cost. The BOGS team also attended multiple sessions held by tribal members, which increased their knowledge and understanding of how BOGS can better serve tribes throughout the country.



Source: Tribal GIS.com.

New Staff Member: Byron

BY BYRON ANDREW



Image: Byron Andrew

Byron Andrew joined the BOGS team in October as a Cartographer for the BIA. Byron received an Associate's Degree in Geospatial Information Technologies from the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute. He also graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from the University of New Mexico in Geography with a minor in Native American studies. Byron is from the Pueblo of Jemez, which is one of the 19 Pueblos in New Mexico. He first used GIS as an intern with the Valles Caldera National Preserve, and his interest in cartography grew deeply while attending college. He worked with Earth Data Analysis Center as a student intern and as a Rangeland Technician with the Pathways Intern Program under the Fire & Forestry Department of the BIA. Byron is currently stationed at the Southwest Regional Office in Albuquerque. He is a family man with a daughter that will soon be turning two. In his free time, Byron enjoys riding horses, archery, hunting, running, and being outdoors.

Tod Dabolt Talks About His Roles and the GeoPlatform (cont.)

On the Geospatial Platform and how it could be a resource for Indian Country

The GeoPlatform is an effort funded by 32 different federal agencies, and the DOI serves as the managing partner on behalf of the other agencies. The GeoPlatform is set up to help geospatial collaboration between the stovepipes that sometimes form between different organizations. For example, if we have a project that requires coordination, and data coming in from a variety of partners, the platform is a great place to bring those partners together. On neutral territory, we are able to collaborate and find common solutions to problems, whether they are emergency response activities or natural resource management issues. There are no limits on what the GeoPlatform can be used for, as long as it's supporting collaboration between one or more different federal or tribal entities.

I'm really excited that the BIA, in partnership with tribal communities, is looking to leverage GeoPlatform as an information sharing and collaboration space. I think it offers some unique capabilities to help collaborate in an open environment or in a secure closed environment. It's expanding our breadth of ways to solve problems using GIS. I'd also like to add, to any of the tribal members that are running into a challenge on data management that crosses organizational boundaries, whether that's within the DOI or even a tribal jurisdiction needing a space to collaborate with their adjacent state partners, I would welcome them to use GeoPlatform in those situations.

Note: The Geospatial Platform is a website with access to frequently updated, trusted geospatial data, services, and applications for use by the public and government agencies to meet their mission needs. Visit <https://www.geoplatform.gov/> to explore the available geospatial resources and learn how to collaborate with others to build geospatial applications.

Upcoming 2018 Esri Conferences

BY DONNA OFFERSON

2018 Esri Federal GIS Conference Scheduled March 20-21 in Washington, D.C.

Register now for the 2018 Esri Federal GIS Conference being held from March 20-21, 2018, in Washington, D.C. Federal government leaders will be presenting groundbreaking projects and Esri technical experts will be showcasing advances in GIS technology and how to use the latest tools. There is no cost for federal employees or federally recognized tribal members to attend. (Traveling expenses, meals, and lodging are not included.) In order to take advantage of the Esri hotel discount, you must book your room in Esri's block by February 20, 2018. After February 20th, all room reservations will have to be made directly through the hotel at their standard rate. For more information, please go to:

<https://www.esri.com/events/federal/registration/>.

2018 Esri User Conference Slated for July 9-13 in San Diego

Make plans now to attend the world's largest GIS conference! The 2018 Esri User Conference will be held July 9-13, 2018, in San Diego. The conference will offer networking opportunities, collaboration, learning and fun. More than 18,000 participants are expected to attend this event. To register, go to <http://www.esri.com/about/events/uc/register>.

Esri has a limited number of complimentary passes available for those who qualify. If you are interested in receiving a complimentary pass, please follow the instructions below.

Tribal Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) Participants:

Please send an email with your name, address and telephone number to anne_taylor@esri.com. The passes are limited to three per tribe, and they are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

BIA ELA Participants: Please send an email with your name, address, and telephone number to geospatial@bia.gov. These complimentary passes are for OTS employees only and are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. You must have your expense report submitted to BOGS by May 18, 2018, in order to be considered for a complimentary pass.



Image: From left to right, Bryce Herbert, Heston Smith, Brad Tatham and Steve Mesa at the Esri User Conference 2017.

U.S. National Grid Reference System

BY DAVID O'DONNELL



Image: U.S. Map with Coordinate Grid.
Source: USNG Information Center.

When a disaster strikes and “normal” landmarks such as street signs and structures are gone, the U.S. National Grid (USNG) serves as useful tool for first responders. The USNG is a standardized grid reference system that is seamless across jurisdictional boundaries. The USNG pinpoints exact locations and provides a common geographic framework that assists search and rescue teams and first responders in conducting damage assessments, aid distribution, and restoration efforts. Visit <http://usngcenter.org/> for more information on the USNG and to obtain hard copy maps. The USNG Center website also has online maps, digital applications, and mapbooks of recently affected areas available for download. The BOGS Training Group is offering an *Introduction to the U.S. National Grid* course. Check out page 4 for more information.

For GIS Staff and ArcMap Users:

Working with the USNG requires inserting the associated Grid Box and Magnetic North Declination Arrow in ArcMap. To do this, users must activate the Production Mapping extension under Customize > Extensions on the main toolbar in ArcMap. The extension is available for eligible tribes and BIA employees through the Department of Interior's Enterprise License Agreement.

Source: The U.S. National Grid Information Center, <http://usngcenter.org/>.

GEOSPATIAL TRAINING SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY — SEPTEMBER 2018

BOGS provides geospatial training for employees of federally recognized tribal entities and to Office of Trust Services (OTS) supported functions within the BIA. OTS supported functions includes GIS related activities under the Divisions of Real Estate Services, Land Titles and Records, Probate, Natural Resources, Forestry and Wildland Fire Management, and Water and Power. All slots not filled one month before the beginning of the course will then be open to and filled on a first come, first served basis by employees of federally recognized tribal entities and with employees of the BIA from any office.

There is no tuition cost for this training. Training equipment and training materials are provided by BOGS. Expenses for transportation, hotel accommodations, and meals are the responsibility of the participant's organization. Training courses are available at the BOGS Lakewood Training Facility in Lakewood, Colorado, and at various field locations per request and availability.

Tribe/Office	Location	Region	Dates
Principles of GIS (Beginner)			
Owens Valley Indian Water Commission	Bishop, CA	Pacific	Mar 5-8
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	Wadsworth, NV	Western	Apr 30-May 2
Quinalt Indian Nation	Taholah, WA	Northwest	Apr 30-May 2
White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians	White Earth, MN	Midwest	May 14-16
Oneida Nation	Green Bay, WI	Midwest	May 28-30
Red Cliff Tribe of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Bayfield, WI	Midwest	Jun 11-13
Pueblo of Pojoaque	Santa Fe, NM	Southwest	Jul 16-18
Shinnecock Tribe	Shinnecock, NY	Eastern	Jul 16-18
Round Valley Indian Tribe	Covelo, CA	Pacific	Aug 6-8
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	Fort Yates, ND	Great Plains	Aug 20-22
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes	Pocatello, ID	Northwest	Sep 10-12
Nez Perce Tribe	Lapwai, ID	Northwest	Sep 17-19
Introduction to GPS Using ArcPad (Beginner)			
Owens Valley Indian Water Commission	Bishop, CA	Pacific	Mar 12-13
Seminole Tribe of Florida	Hollywood, FL	Eastern	Jun 18-19
Pueblo of Pojoaque	Santa Fe, NM	Southwest	Jul 23-24
Round Valley Indian Tribe	Covelo, CA	Pacific	Aug 9-10
Three Affiliated Tribes	New Town, ND	Great Plains	Aug 16-17
Introduction to U.S. National Grid (Beginner)			
Lakewood Training Facility	Lakewood, CO	-	Feb 21-22
Geodatabase Management Solutions* (Intermediate)			
Seminole Tribe of Florida	Hollywood, FL	Eastern	Jun 20-22
Fundamentals of Remote Sensing* (Intermediate)			
BIA Alaska Region	Juneau, AK	Alaska	Jun 25-27
Three Affiliated Tribes	New Town, ND	Great Plains	Aug 13-15
29 Palms Band of Mission Indians of California	Coachella, CA	Pacific	Aug 27-29
Rocky Mountain Regional Office	Billings, MT	Rocky Mountain	Sep 5-7
Introduction to Cartography* (Intermediate)			
Lakewood Training Facility	Lakewood, CO	-	Feb 5-8
Seminole Tribe of Florida	Hollywood, FL	Eastern	Mar 26-29
Cherokee Nation	Tahlequah, OK	Eastern Oklahoma	Apr 23-25
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians	Odanah, WI	Midwest	Jun 4-6

All courses are taught in ArcGIS version 10.2.2 and ArcPad 10.2 unless otherwise indicated.

*Indicates this course has a prerequisite.

Due to the high demand for training, please register early to help ensure placement in the requested course. To register for a course, email or fax a completed and signed registration form to geospatial@bia.gov. Visit the Geospatial Support website at bia.gov/gis, call the Geospatial Support Help Desk at 1-877-293-9494, or email geospatial@bia.gov for a copy of the latest training brochure, which includes a registration form, course descriptions, cancellation and absence policies, priority information, and other training policies.

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